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Crime Figure, Linked to Plot on Castro, Found Slain

MIAMI, Aug. 8 (AP)—The body of John Roselli, a key figure with San Giancana, the slain Chicago mobster, in a Central Intelligence Agency plan to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, has been found in a chain-wrapped 55-gallon drum floating in Biscayne Bay.

Mr. Roselli, 70 years old, was found yesterday by two fishermen. He had been missing since he left his sister's home on July 28 to play golf.

"These guys went to an incredible amount of trouble trying to make sure the body was never found," Dr. Ronald Wright, deputy chief medical examiner, said. "The lengths to which they went to insure the body would not be found clearly earmarks this as a true gangland-style killing."

The Dade County authorities said that Mr. Roselli had been asphyxiated. Earlier reports indicated that Mr. Roselli had been shot. Dr. Wright would only confirm that there was "a circular wound on the lower abdomen."

Mr. Roselli testified last year before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities that he and Mr. Giancana had been recruited in 1961 by the C.I.A. as a part of a plot to poison Mr. Castro. Mr. Roslli said that he had turned down the offer, for which he and Mr. Giancana were reportedly to have been paid $100,000. According to the Senate report on the plan, Mr. Roselli was the liaison between Mr. Giancana and Cuban dissidents who were to carry out the assassination.

United Press International
John Roselli

Giancana Murdered

Mr. Giancana was also supposed to testify before the Senate Committee, but on July 19, 1975, several days before his scheduled appearance, someone fired seven .22-caliber bullets into him in what the authorities said was a gang-land killing. That murder has never been solved.

The Intelligence Committee learned that Robert A. Maheu, a former top aide to the late Howard R. Hughes, was the liaison between the C.I.A. and the mobsters. Mr. Maheu, who has partly acknowledged his role in the assaccination plan, split with Mr. Hughes long before the billionaire's death earlier this year.

The two fishermen found the oil drum floating in Dumbfoundling Bay, an arm of Biscyane Bay between North Miami and Miami Beach. The police said that because of the currents, it was not known where the drum had been thrown into the bay.

Dr. Wright said that the holes had been chopped in the barrel to make it sink and that the chains had been wrapped around it to weight it down. Gases formed by the decomposition and trapped inside body tissue and the barrel itself had brought it to the surface he said.

Car Was Found

Mr. Roselli had been reported missing on July 28 by his sister, with whom he had been living recently in Plantation, north of Miami. His car was found a few days later at Miami International Airport. His golf bags were still in the trunk.

Mr. Roselli was associated for many years with Mr. Giancana, who became the head of the Chicago rackets in the late 1930's and eary 1940's.

Mr. Roselli was sent to Las Vegas, Nev., in the 1950's to operate the organized crime interests there but stayed under the control of the Chicago organization.

He went to Los Angeles in the early 1960's and was based there when Mr. Castro took over Cuba. Until then, organized crime had controlled gambling in Cuba.

Mr. Maheu has said that he recruited Mr. Roselli and Mr. Giancana to kill Mr. Castro at the request of the C.I.A. He said that the two men had been chosen because of contacts they had made in Cuba in the pre-Castro years.

Mr. Maheu said that the plot was timed to coincide with Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 and was "always subject to a 'go' signal which, to my knowledge, never came."

Mr. Roselli told the Senate committee that he had made several trips to Cuba in high-powered boats furnished by the C.I.A. He said that the plan had included various methods for killing Mr. Castro, including sniper fire, explosives and poison capsules.

Mr. Roselli and Giancana were also linked with Judith Campbell Exner, who has said that she had "a relationship" with President John F. Kennedy. The names of Mr. Roselli and Mr. Giancana appear in F.B.I. reports released at Mrs. Exner's request for help in writing her memoirs.